

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the announcement by the House leadership to allow an open and honest debate on campaign finance reform has been cheered by editorials and reform activists throughout the country. I, however, am withholding my enthusiasm. We have been given false promises before and I will not celebrate until we actually take part in a truly open debate on this issue on the House floor.

I am not yet convinced that our goal of passing meaningful reform will happen given the history of the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate on this issue. In spite of the support of a majority of the members of the Senate, reform was defeated by procedural maneuvers. In the House a majority of the members have been advocating for a year and a half in support of campaign reform, yet we haven't gotten a vote. I hope that the leadership has finally seen that the public wants Congress to do something about big money in politics.

Mr. Speaker I will continue my effort to keep this issue at the forefront until I am assured that an open honest debate will happen on campaign finance reform. The people of western Wisconsin will accept nothing less.

HONORING FILIPINA S. MACAHILIG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of a woman whose loving care for her family and community spanned half the world, for over half a century.

Filipina S. Macahilig began life in Manila, graduating from the University of the Philippines before working as a nurse through World War II. The children at the schools on Panay Island were comforted by her tender and competent care.

At war's end, Ms. Macahilig moved to the United States, first to San Francisco and then to the Monterey Peninsula, where she continued to care for the ill and infirm. She and her beloved husband Edel raised her large family: four sons, Rene, Felicisimo, Requirio and Edilberto, and four daughters, Alice, Bernadette, Suzanne and Teresita, all of whom graduated with highest honors and became outstanding members of their communities. Her warmth extended outwards into the community through her service as a longtime member and officer of the Filipino Community Organization of the Monterey Peninsula. She replenished her spirit at the Carmel Mission Basilica where she was a faithful parishioner. She cared for her fourteen grandchildren and

five great-grandchildren with her own special kind of gentle compassion, providing a model of humanity that they will carry with them always.

Her death at the age of 87 was a loss, but her generous spirit will continue to warm and nurture the community through the memories she has left with us.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE DICKINSON

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements and services of my constituent, George Dickinson of Flora, Illinois, who serves as Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 282. He has volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America for fifty years and has remained committed to this organization and his community.

George has demonstrated excellent service to his troops by teaching them how to survive in the wilderness and respect others. Over the past fifty years, he has taken his troops on a variety of trips to help them understand the great outdoors even better, including a trek to the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in New Mexico, canoeing the boundary waters of Minnesota, and hiking the Appalachian trail through Georgia. It is refreshing to know we can rely on role models such as George to mentor our youth.

George has received numerous awards from the local and national Boy Scout councils, including the Silver Beaver Award, the District Award of Merit and the Veteran Scoutmaster Award. He is dedicated to his Troop and dedicated to the service of the Boy Scouts.

George is not only an exemplary role model for the Boy Scouts of Troop 282, but also for the state of Illinois and it is with the greatest honor that I can represent George in this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing George Dickinson for his milestone fifty years of service to the Boy Scouts and the Flora community.

UKRAINE

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, in August 1991, the people of Ukraine courageously and proudly proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union, and immediately faced the dual challenges of restructuring both a centralized economy and authoritarian political system. Unlike the often erratic progression of other post-Soviet nations, Ukraine has moved cautiously and steadily toward a free-market economy and multi-party

democracy. Just last month, Ukraine successfully held its first national Parliamentary elections under a new democratic Constitution and recently passed federal election law. Nearly seventy percent of the citizenry turned out to cast a ballot in this monumental election.

Any transition of this magnitude, however, will naturally encounter both progress, as well as setbacks. Ukraine, as Europe's second-largest nation with 51 million citizens, has faced particular challenges in transforming a misguided and convoluted Soviet economic system into a transparent and viable economy, open and appealing to eager foreign investors. Many American investors have faced significant obstacles and complications attempting to operate in this difficult environment.

The fiscal year 1998 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, signed into law by President Clinton last year, requires U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright to "certify no later than April 30, 1998 that the government of Ukraine has made significant progress toward resolving complaints by U.S. investors." Without such certification, the U.S. shall, under law, withhold fifty percent of the fiscal year 1998 foreign assistance funding to Ukraine, not including funds used for nuclear safety purposes. Given our country's vital long-term strategic interest in Ukraine, however, it is my hope that investor complaints have been sufficiently resolved to warrant Secretary Albright's certification on April 30.

American and Ukrainian officials alike have stated that the development and improvement of Ukraine's business climate is crucial for Ukraine's continued path toward a true, market-oriented economy. While America should commend the reform efforts attained by Ukraine in 1997, which have resulted in the lowest rate of inflation since independence, the stabilization of Ukraine's monetary unit, and the continued privatization of state-owned enterprises, it is equally important for Ukraine to achieve deregulation in product licensing and to pursue further restructuring of its energy and agricultural sectors. It is my hope that Ukraine can achieve these additional, much-needed reforms through the assistance of continued U.S. engagement.

Acknowledging America's role in Ukraine's continued economic development, former ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller recently stated, "the United States has the capacity to continue the levels of support it has given in the past, and in fact, should look to increase those levels in order to ensure a successful outcome." The Ukrainian government has indicated that without increased foreign investment, many structural reforms already in place would be difficult to maintain. For this reason, the Ukrainian government recently formed the Special Task Force on Corporate Governance and Shareholder Rights. The purpose of this task force is to enhance the investment climate in Ukraine and improve its competitiveness in the international marketplace.

The existence of informal and unofficial economies remains a frequent complaint

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